



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of

The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Visit the GNA website: www.GibraltarNA.org
Join the GNA Networking site: www.Gibraltar.Nextdoor.com

SIDEWALKS NEEDING REPAIR!

Several GNA residents have inquired as to whether our association can help with getting sidewalks repaired in their areas. We have begun developing a plan and have measured and mapped all of the sidewalks within our boundaries where the cement has eroded, heaved up, broken apart, etc. These forlorn walkways create a tripping hazard (not to mention making snow shoveling a nightmare). We are researching what grants we can apply for to get some funding for this very expensive project, and we will be contacting vendors to get both estimates on cost and timeframes. It's possible because of project length and available funding that we *might* have to split the project into phases, but be assured we will keep this initiative front and center. Once we have all the pieces in place, we'll publish the project scope here in the newsletter. If you are particularly concerned whether your sidewalk has been identified as one of those in need, please contact GNA Board Member Steve Gorman at cgorman11@yahoo.com to discuss your concerns and Steve can confirm or come out and take a look at your sidewalk. THANK YOU!



JULY 2015 GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Corner of Bluff Street and Story Street

If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food item to contribute to their food pantry!! Also, bring your ideas, concerns, news, suggestions, etc. as we discuss ways to improve our neighborhood. ALL residents (both owners and renters) are encouraged to attend!

2nd Quarter GNA Social

Sunday, June 28 at 12:30 p.m. Afternoon gathering at the home of Patricia Murphy, 333 Willow. Come enjoy a nosh and get to know your neighbors! See add'l info in the newsletter!

Future GNA General Meetings:

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015 -- 6:00 to 8:00 pm
Wednesday, Nov. 11 -- 6:00 to 8:00 pm

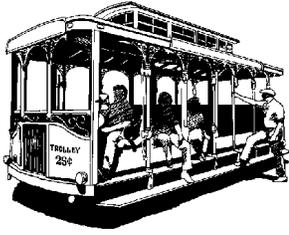
SUBMIT YOUR SURVEY! (please)

We're including the Neighborhood Assessment survey again in this issue as we only had six responses from the April issue! (Harrumph!). PLEASE stop reading this right now, tear off the back sheet, take 5 minutes to fill it out and drop it in the mail!! Otherwise, you may find us standing on your front porch peering through the windows asking, "IS ANYONE HOME?!?"

We really DO want to hear what you think about ways to improve neighborhood satisfaction, interaction, sense of community, etc. Your board will be meeting in the coming weeks to brainstorm ways we can improve participation and ideas for outreach. **HELP US HELP YOU!!** Thanks!!

Have Trolley, Will Tour

The Trolley Tours of Historic Council Bluffs are scheduled on the 4th Thursday of every month from May through October, at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. The trolley will take you through the four historic districts surrounding downtown Council Bluffs (3 of



the 4 are listed on the National Register of Historic Places). The tour guide will share a glimpse of the early history of Council Bluffs through the architectural styles of selected homes and a brief history of the first families who lived in them. Boarding on Ollie the Trolley begins at 5:30pm. Tours are approximately one hour and 15 minutes. Tickets are \$10 per person and can be purchased by sending your check with a SASE #10 envelope to Bluffs Arts Council, PO Box 795, CoBluffs, IA 51502. Please indicate for which tour (date/time) you want tickets. Make the check payable to Preserve C.B. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

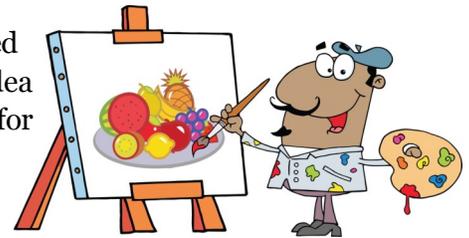
VISION: Gibraltar Neighborhood is a clean, safe neighborhood that offers an interesting mix of well kept homes within one of the Historic areas of Council Bluffs and provides its residents with a place to live where neighbors look out for one another and are proud of their neighborhood.

MISSION: Gibraltar Neighborhood Association seeks to develop, implement and promote a comprehensive plan that: strengthens neighborhood relationships and communication, creates strategies to make our neighborhood safe, promotes activities that assure our neighborhood is one of clean and well-kept properties, encourages ideas and community involvement, and ensures that we will leave our neighborhood better than we found it.

BANNER DESIGN CONTEST!

Your GNA board is excited to announce that we are making some progress towards installing Gibraltar Neighborhood decorative banners on 25 light poles scattered throughout our neighborhood. We still have a number of hurdles to cross (including getting the grant money to cover some of the expense, receiving final approval from Mid-American Energy, getting final vendor quotes, etc.), but hope to have all our “ducks in a row” when it comes time to pull the trigger. **That means we need a DESIGN for our banners!** The banner will be a single color (white) imprint on a forest green background. Banner size is 30” wide x 60” tall. The design should not be overly-complex nor contain shading (it will be screen printed), and needs to have the wording “Gibraltar Neighborhood Historic District.”

If you are interested in submitting an idea or finished design for the banner, please contact Cory Peters at



coryp241@yahoo.com. We’ll be narrowing down the submissions and publishing all the finalists in a future issue of the newsletter for residents to review and provide feedback on! The winner receives a *free year paid GNA membership!*

Artwork submission deadline is July 3rd.

Here is an example of what a banner might look like in a single color imprint. Ideas might include the image of the Dodge House (they are the most significant landmark in within our neighborhood), a generic Victorian home, the old Gibraltar mound, an oak leaf or squirrel... it’s up to you!



FROM PRESIDENT PETERS

Greetings fellow GNA residents!

Talk about a green Spring!! We DID need the moisture and omigosh is everything nice and green, but I am ready for things to dry out so I can get some work done outdoors! I have some painting and repairing to do, but it's just been so wet! However, the silver lining to that grey, rainy cloud is a smaller lawn watering bill, right?

Per my comments in the prior issue of the newsletter, your GNA Board is continuing work on several initiatives, and while it always seems to be a somewhat slow process, things are moving forward. Our decorative banner initiative has, as of this writing, been OK'd by the city, so now we are just waiting on final approval from Mid-American Energy for the installation. When we get their OK, we then will apply for a grant to help cover the sizeable cost of banners and mounting hardware. See the article about banner design! Many steps to take, but we're checking them off one by one.

You also saw on the cover of the newsletter some information about the sidewalk repair initiative. We are currently working on getting vendor price and timeframe estimates. Once we've established the parameters on all of that, we'll then need to apply for grant monies to help with the expense. It will be nice to get started on this important initiative, but much of the process is "hurry up and wait."

The rain kindly held off for the **Celebrate C.B. parade** on May 16th, and I want to personally thank the wonderful volunteers who participated and represented Gibraltar in spectacular fashion! Pictures are posted on the Gibraltar website (www.GibraltarNA.org), and some are included in this newsletter. That same Saturday, Gibraltar also participated in the Dodge House Heirloom Plant Sale. Shopping was brisk and merchandise was sold quickly! I haven't seen the final tally, but the fundraiser in support of the Dodge House was a success.

2nd QUARTER GNA SOCIAL! The GNA social event for the 2nd quarter will be held at the beautiful historic home of Patricia Murphy, 333 Willow, on Sunday afternoon June 28 (Pat's home that was featured in the April issue of Rock Talk!). The GNA will provide wine, lemonade & iced tea (BYO beer or pop!). *Please bring a side dish, appetizer or sweet treat to share.* We had some AMAZING food at the last Social... there are a lot of GREAT COOKS in Gibraltar!! **Our 3rd Quarter event** will be a **Family-friendly Fall Picnic at Kirn Park**, with the GNA providing sloppy joes!! Watch for info in the next issue of Rock Talk.

Wondering how you can improve your neighborhood experience? **PLEASE take a moment to fill out the survey** located on page 13!! Your input is critical as we work to make our neighborhood the best it can be. It will just take a few moments, and if you don't want to spend the \$\$ on a stamp, feel free to tuck the survey in any board members' door! And as a friendly reminder, if you would like to be a paid GNA "member" (which gives you voting rights and a few other perks), send in the membership form on page 10. And don't forget to join the neighborhood networking group at www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com. This site is an *excellent* way for all residents (both homeowners and renters—it doesn't matter!!) to post news, share alerts, ask questions, pose ideas and get to know one another. There is NO COST to join the group, there's no spam or advertisements, etc.; you just need to live in the Gibraltar boundaries.

Until next time, Cory Peters — GNA President



P.S. I am excited to include the Historic Homes features from Mary Lou McGinn this month as John J. Hess and John P. Hess were my great grandfather and great-great grandfather on my Dad's side. The baby in the family photo is my Dad (John Peters), shown on my Grandma Gere's lap. While my siblings and I grew up in Gibraltar (just a half-block from where I live now!), my family's Gibraltar roots go *way* back! How cool!

WE NEED YOU!

GNA Treasurer Spot Is OPEN

With our GNA Treasurer Bob Rosser's move to western Nebraska, we are in need of someone to step up and fill the Treasurer position. It's not a difficult or time-consuming position: you need to collect the mail from our GNA P.O. Box periodically, deposit membership application checks at the bank, and write the occasional check to reimburse expenses or pay for something. ***That's about it.***

The board only meets every other month, and you just need to make sure our ledger matches the bank statement and report on the balance for that month.

We have a dedicated and enthusiastic group who is currently serving on the GNA board and WE NEED YOU!! ***Won't you please considering give a couple hours of your time?*** Contact Cory Peters (GNA President) at coryp241@yahoo.com for more information. Thank you!!! ■



DODGE HOUSE NEWS

Garden Walk - Sunday, June 28, 2015

Start your day at the Historic General Dodge House with a continental breakfast and tours of the Dodge and Beresheim House. Your ticket will also allow entrance into several private gardens in the area, showcasing many different types of landscapes and plant varieties. Tickets may be purchased at the Dodge House office at 621 Third Street, Hy-Vee Madison Avenue, Diller's Greenhouse and Sherbondy's Garden Center. Please call

ahead to make sure tickets are available. Advance tickets are \$10.00 or \$12.00 at the door. Member tickets are \$8.00 (available for purchase only at the Dodge House). ■



Habitat ReStore OPEN!

Habitat for Humanity Council Bluffs recently moved their offices to the beautifully-restored historic building at 1228 S. Main Street, with expanded and improved space for the ReStore store.

Habitat ReStore sells new and used building materials, furniture, appliances and a wide variety of household goods to the public at **discount prices**. All proceeds from the Council Bluffs ReStore support Habitat's comprehensive neighborhood improvement mission.

They are open M-F 11:00 to 5:00 and Saturdays 8:00 to 2:00. Check it out!! ■

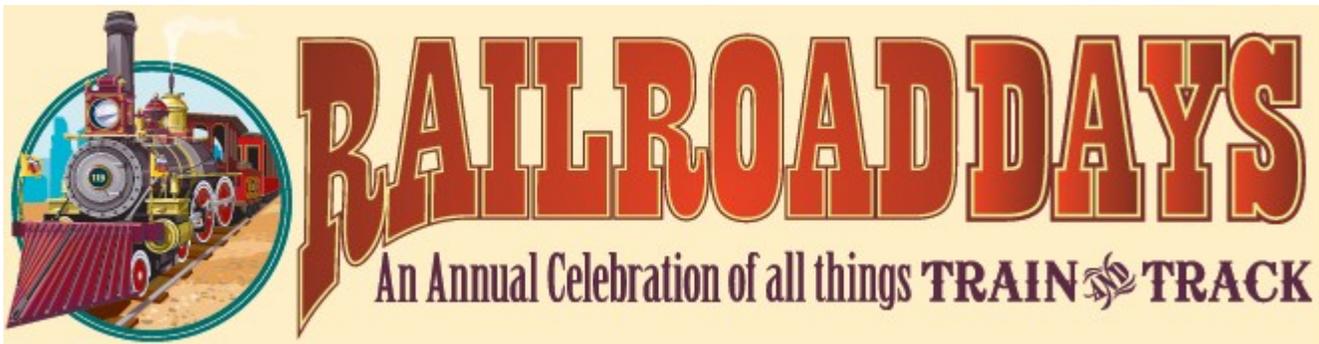


2nd Quarter “Sunday Social” on June 28!

Mark your calendar for the 2nd Quarter GNA Social event, held on Sunday, June 28 from 12:30 to 3:30 in the afternoon at the beautifully-restored historic home of Patricia Murphy, **333 Willow** (the south-west corner of Bluff & Willow). Enjoy a glass of wine and a nosh on the patio and get to know your neighbors!! There will be wine, lemonade and iced tea provided. *Please bring an appetizer, side dish or sweet treat to share with everyone (and BYO beer or pop if that’s your beverage of choice).* We had so much fun at the 1st Quarter Social, so if you missed it, be sure to get this one on your calendar!

PLEASE R.S.V.P. to Cory Peters at coryp241@yahoo.com so we have a headcount for supplies.

Watch for upcoming info on the 3rd Quarter Social – it will be a family-friendly picnic at Kirn Park, with Sloppy Joes provided!!



July 11 & 12 || 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. || \$15 Family Pass

Thanks to the generous support from Union Pacific Corporation and a grant from the Iowa West Foundation, a family pass for Railroad Days is only \$15! One \$15 pass admits two adults and your dependent children or two grandparents and up to four grandchildren, for both days to five different attractions!! A \$5 pass is also available for one additional adult with purchase of a family pass. This includes transportation between the different locations and all the special activities that each location has to offer.

THE DODGE HOUSE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS EVENT!! If you would be able to volunteer some of your time, the Dodge House is looking for neighborhood help on either Saturday or Sunday to assist with the increased foot traffic! For more information, call them at 712-322-2406.

You can purchase tickets the day of the event at any of the participating attractions:

- > Lauritzen Gardens
- > The Durham Museum
- > RailsWest Railroad Museum
- > Union Pacific Railroad Museum
- > Historic General Dodge House

For more information, visit www.omaharailroaddays.com. ■

GNA HOMES: 36 Bluff Street — John P. Hess, by *Mary Lou McGinn*

John P. Hess was born in 1852 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Census records list his parents as John R. Hess and Anna Stauffer. According to his obituary, “He was the son of a prominent Mennonite preacher whose congregation later built a church in honor of the pastor’s work in the community.

“He moved to Pottawattamie County in 1879 and established himself on a farm east of the city. Later he began representing eastern investors seeking to place loans on Iowa farm properties. He remained on the farm doing this work until 1890, when he associated himself with F.J. Day and formed the firm of Day and Hess, real estate brokers and insurance agents. The Hess building on Pearl and Main streets was built by this firm.

“Mr. Hess purchased the Day interests in the firm in 1914 and established the firm of J.P. Hess Company. He remained in this business until 1928.”



The John P. Hess House, 36 Bluff Street

He served as president of the Abstract and Title Guarantee Company and secretary of the Day and Hess Company. In 1918, he was president of the J.P. Hess Company (real estate, loans, surety bonds and abstracts). He served as president of the school board in 1903, 1904 and 1905. He was a member of the Elks and Kiwanis Clubs, and an active member of the Council Bluffs Real Estate board before his retirement. He was an elder in the First Presbyterian church.

Susan B. Konigmacher and John P. Hess were married in Pennsylvania before moving to Iowa. The couple had three sons: John J., Edwin and Adam. Susan was on the board of the Creche, a ladies charitable organization founded in 1901 to help deserted wives and children.

The nomination of the Willow/Bluff/Third Street District to the National Register of Historic Places lists John P. Hess as the probable builder of the houses at both 36 and 40 Bluff Street. The abstract for the property at #36 verifies that Susan and John P. Hess owned both lots.

The Hess family lived at **40 Bluff Street** (built c.1900) until 1910. Listed as a Foursquare Variant of the Free Classic Queen Anne style, the house retains clapboard siding; wide eave overhang with modillion blocks; wrap-around porch with $\frac{3}{4}$ height round columns and pedimented entry; two-story bay window; canted corner on the southeast and cut-away bay on the northeast corner. In 1910, the Hess family moved to their new home at **36 Bluff Street**.

According to the National Register nomination of the district, the 1896 Sanborn map shows a house on this lot, but with a different footprint. The abstract refers to it as “a brick house”. The width of the masonry walls in the basement suggests that the new house, built c.1910, may have been built on the foundation of the older brick house. City directories show people living at this address between 1894 and 1910, while it was owned by Hess – possibly as renters.

The style of the house at 36 Bluff Street reflects the Prairie style of architecture that was made popular by Frank Lloyd Wright during the early part of the century and continuing through c.1920. The National Register nomination of the district notes the narrow clapboard siding, very wide eave overhang, flared eaves, original Prairie/Craftsman type windows with leaded glass, and a front door with side lights and transoms. The triple windows above the porch and the classical porch columns add a touch of the Colonial Revival style, also popular at that time.

Susan Hess died in 1917. Census records indicate that John P. Hess continued to live in the house through 1930, when he suffered a stroke which left him paralyzed. He then sold the house to his son, John J. Hess. In 1932, he died of pneumonia following a second stroke. According to his obituary, he died at 2400 Avenue D, where he had been staying for some time under the care of a nurse. The family of Daniel and Mary O’Connor lived at the house until it was sold by John J. Hess in 1937. John P. Hess and his wife Susan are buried in Walnut Hill cemetery.
Continued on next page.

GNA HOMES: 528 Clark Ave. — John J. Hess, by Mary Lou McGinn

John J. Hess, born in 1872, lived on the family farm and from age seven and attended country schools. After graduating from high school, he attended the Western Iowa Business College, spent one year at Grinnell College and one year at Highland Park College in Des Moines. He then entered the University of Iowa School of Law where, according to his obituary, “he was active in athletics and played fullback on the team.” He graduated in 1895, returned to Council Bluffs and began the practice of law. He established the Hess Law Firm in 1896.

Hess, distinguished in Iowa as a trial lawyer, was chairman of the board of First Federal Savings & Loan, a member of the board of directors of the Abstract Guaranty Co., served as Pottawattamie County attorney for eight years, was special assistant attorney general of Iowa for 15 years, was active in Republican politics, and was named king of the Council Bluffs Mardi Gras in 1947 for his service to the community.

On December 16, 1898, he married Belle Snyder who was born in 1877 in Fayette County, Iowa, and came with her parents to Council Bluffs at age three. The J.J. Hess family lived at 224 South Seventh Street - the present site of Bloomer School - until the purchased the house at 528 Clark Avenue in 1923.

The couple had two daughters: Geraldine, who married Douglas Peters, Sr., and Gretchen, who married his brother, Clarence Peters.

Geraldine and Douglas Peters had three sons: Peter, John and Douglas. All attended law school and joined the Hess Law Firm, which then became the Hess Peters Law Firm. Douglas eventually went to work for First Federal Savings & Loan; Peter and John stayed with the firm.

Gretchen and Clarence Peters had one son, Clarence Hess Peters - known as Hess. Two children from Gretchen’s second marriage, to Gordon Smith, were Gordon, Jr. and Sandra.

The history of the house at 528 Clark Avenue began in 1906 when the area was platted. Based on courthouse records, it appears that Thomas Metcalf, Jr., president of The Metcalf Co., clothiers, built the house in 1912, moving from 519 Clark Avenue. Eloise Metcalf sold the house in 1923 to John J. Hess. The Hess family lived in the house until 1952 when Belle died following a stroke. John then sold the house and went to live in the country with his grandson, Hess Peters.

The house was built in the Craftsman style, which was popular at that time. A subdued version of the Craftsman style, the house has a stuccoed first floor, wood shingled second floor, and a hip roof with cross gabled eaves. The cantilevered porch hood over the front door has a diagonal brace, unique to the Craftsman style, as well as banded windows on the side elevation. The side porch was originally an open porch; the deck is a recent addition.

John J. Hess died in 1956 at age 84. The law firm that he founded, now Peters Law Firm, has been in existence for 119 years.

Preserve Council Bluffs acknowledges the following sources of information for this series: National Register of Historic Places nominations, the reference department of the Council Bluffs Public Library, the auditor’s office of the Pottawattamie County courthouse, Council Bluffs Community Development Department, homeowners, family members and – for these two house features – Larry Wilcoxon and Mark Peters. Mary Lou McGinn can be reached by email at mlmcginn@cox.net. The series can be found on the web site: www.preservecouncilbluffs.org



The John J. Hess House, 528 Clark Ave.



John J. Hess, John P. Hess, Geraldine Hess Peters, Infant John Peters

CELEBRATE C.B. PARADE 2015! Gibraltar ROCKS in the parade!



GNA PET NEWS, by Jeff Ketcham

I recently had the fortunate occasion to meet with DJ, Gordon Hitchcock's Basenji.

About 4 years ago, after a negative experience with another dog, Gordon had said, "Find me a dog that doesn't bark, doesn't stink, and doesn't shed, and that'll be the dog for me," and as he says, he should have been careful what he wished for. Or at least been more specific as to where he'd find it. Shortly after that, a long time friend of Gordon's in the Washington, D.C. area contacted him about meeting a Basenji named DJ. After exchanging emails, pictures, and short videos featuring DJ's personality and traits, Gordon realized this was the dog he'd asked for, and he believes when you put a request out to the universe you shouldn't ignore the response.

DJ had been surrendered back to the breeder. As Gordon explained, basenji's are a unique breed and not for everyone. They're a domesticated jungle dog from the Congo in Africa. They've only been a domesticated breed since the 1950's and can come with some unique quirks and special needs. One of their more attractive qualities is that they are incapable of barking.

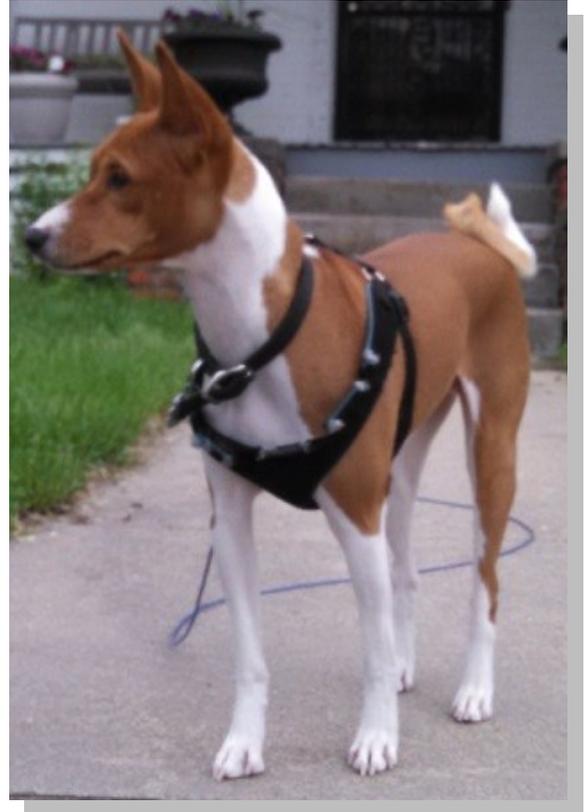
This is due to an evolutionary trait that developed as the breed was developed by Congolese tribes as hunting dogs. That isn't to say that they aren't vocal, they have a unique set of sounds that they can use to get your attention, some that resemble yodeling and as Gordon puts it, another that sounds like a tornado siren. They shed very little and have no undercoat, so they don't handle the cold well. They are incredibly athletic and intelligent dogs. Gordon explained that a fully developed male can do a standing spring jump over six feet in the air. It is the combination of energy, athleticism and intelligence that requires a special kind of owner.

Gordon explained to the breeder that he works from home and could provide the care and attention that DJ would need. So smitten with the prospect of adopting DJ, he drove to Washington, D.C. straight through the night. The very next day DJ was his dog; Gordon even has a picture of himself and DJ in front of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington.

Gordon has had DJ for 3 1/2 years, and in that time DJ has become family. Gordon told me a story about taking DJ to his mother's, as he goes to visit his hometown regularly to give massages (his profession). And usually when they arrive, DJ jumps into his mother's lap and greets 'Grammie' face to face. However, on one trip, they got in late and Gordon's mother had already gone to bed. DJ, not knowing what time it was, looked for 'Grammie' and when he couldn't find her, went to bed himself. When they were up the next day, DJ let Gordon's mother know his displeasure in not being greeted by first the cold shoulder and then a grumble when addressed. Gordon's mother said laughing, "I think I just got chewed out."

Gordon, Brian and DJ enjoy walking through Gibraltar, as the many retaining walls give DJ a lot of jumping practice. Gordon and DJ are also on the planning committee for the new dog park being built by the new Midland Human Society facility. Gordon states they hope to have it open by August.

Be sure to wave and say "hi" whenever you see DJ walking through our neighborhood!



Dodge House Plant Sale

Once again this year the Gibraltar Neighborhood participated in a fundraising effort for the General Dodge House by donating plants from our own gardens, with sales benefitting the Dodge House. Spearheaded by Paulette Brandt, GNA resident and Dodge House docent, the sale is held in conjunction with the annual “Heirloom Plant Sale” that the Dodge House holds each spring.

Attendance was good this year, as the rain held off and we saw several post-parade-attendees stop by to check out the great prices and awesome selection of annuals, perennials and heirloom vegetables available. Check out the photos from the event, and put a reminder on your calendar for next year’s plant sale! ■



EVENT CALENDER

THURSDAYS starting in May
Main Street Farmers Market
5:00 to 8:00 pm, 100 W. Broadway
Featuring farm produce, locally-prepared foods, art, music, crafts, etc.

Saturday, June 20th
All Lit Up night bike ride
100 Block of W. Broadway
This 10.9 mile route is flat and easy, ridden at a leisurely pace.
\$20 pre-register or \$30 day of event.

June 25 - 27th
KAT 103.5 Country on the River
Tom Hanafan River’s Edge Park
Live music featuring the Band Perry, Eli Young Band and Craig Morgan.

Sunday, June 28th
Dodge House Garden Walk
Dodge House, 605 S. 3rd St.
\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Saturday, July 4th
Ring Bells for Freedom
Dodge House, 605 S. 3rd St.
Gather on the front porch and celebrate freedom with ringing bells!

July 11—12th
Railroad Days
Various Locations
See article on page 5!

July 31 — August 1st
Grassroots Music Festival
Tom Hanafan River’s Edge Park
Live music from a variety of bands.

Saturday, August 1st
Back to School Wellness Bash
Bayliss Park
Free community wellness event with activities, health screenings, food, clothes, music and more.

GNA General Meeting Minutes, May 13, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Jeff Ketcham, Bill Grove, Roland Lynch, Chris Gorman, Cathy Hill, Cory Peters, Mary Madison and Bob Rosser.

Topics of Discussion:

1. CB Pride Parade participants will meet in church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to get organized, wearing GNA T-shirts. (Participants were Abby, Matt & Abe Colburn, Kent & Mary Madison, Steve & Chris Gorman, Gary Lopez & Jim Keiffer, & Cathy Hill.) Cory worked the Plant Sale at the Dodge House on behalf of GNA. Chris and Steve invited participants to their house for a post-parade repast of burgers and dogs. Cory promised (and delivered!) her promise to provide groovy tunes for the parade. A good time was had by all!

2. Cory and Jeff met with Meka Tate from Habitat for Humanity regarding potential grants. They learned that our library has resources for grants as well as a person dedicated to consulting with community members about grants available nationally. They were also told that Curb Grants are available through Iowa West Foundation yet few are taking advantage of them. When it was pointed out that the association needed someone to visit with the library staff about grants, Cathy Hill (and her sister, Ann Walters) offered to do that SOON! We are seeking grants for our banners, sidewalks, and neighborhood get-togethers (for outreach.)

3. Update on GNA Banners: Cory is working with the city on pole-mounted GNA identification banners. Chris Gorman and Cory drove the neighborhood to identify utility poles that would evenly distribute banners throughout the neighborhood. They paid particular attention to those poles that already have light fixtures on them which would better highlight our banners. Cost is approx. \$5000 for 25 banners (hence the application for grant monies). It was decided by those present that the banners would be the same pine green as on our current banners, with white lettering. Mid-American Energy would install them. Cory will check on whether there is an additional charge for that. Cory submitted a formal proposal to the City/MAE with our plan.

4. RE: Sidewalk Repairs. Cory will check with Steve Gorman if he has spoken to any possible contractors for the work (Steve has already mapped-out the areas in our neighborhood in most need of repair). Bob Rosser suggested chunking the work out incrementally. This is still a work in progress but extremely viable.

5. RE Social Events: Cory would like to access grant moneys to sponsor quarterly social events to reach out to entire neighborhood population. Several ideas were bandied about (Pancake Man, New Year's Eve at General Dodge House and food trucks to name a couple.) Our desire is to provide family-friendly events. Cory Peters and Jeff Ketcham will explore those options.

6. RE GNA Fundraisers: Various ideas were proposed – Movie Theater Night, Dodge House Holiday event (dinner or hors d'oeuvres and cocktails) were all discussed and tabled for another conversation.

7. RE Surveys: Only 6 surveys were submitted, all of which were generally positive. Some concerns were expressed about sense of community, so neighborhood outreach is important. The idea was floated that perhaps banners would provide a sense of identity and pride among neighbors.

8. RE Little Free Library: The pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran has presented to her board about hosting the library in the yard of the rectory. Meka Tate also told Cory that the Rotary Club is interested in being involved in this effort. She will follow up. Bob Rosser suggested that we design a GNA book stamp for the books as another outreach effort. Bob also generously offered us whatever books were not sold at his estate sale, so we can rotate books in and out on a regular basis.

Before adjournment, Cory thanked Mary Madison for agreeing to act as Treasurer with Bob Rosser's departure for new ventures in western Nebraska. A big thanks to Bob for his enthusiastic participation in the GNA. Best wishes to Bob and Ellen. You will be missed! NOTE: Mary is hoping that her stint as Treasurer is brief, so anyone who would like to take on those duties may contact Cory Peters.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hill, Secretary

THANK YOU to our GNA newsletter

delivery & distribution team:

Chris and Steve Gorman

Tom Emmett and Nate Brown.

Without you, our

Newsletter would not be possible!!!!

Your 2015 GNA Board:

Cory Peters, President and
Newsletter Editor
712-329-8526

Jeff Ketcham, Vice President
712-310-2031

OPEN POSITION, Treasurer
???????

Cathy B. Hill, Secretary
402-980-8177

Steve Gorman
712-256-8890

Preserve the Wonderful History of C.B.!

Your Gibraltar Neighborhood is one of the *largest historical neighborhoods* in the city of Council Bluffs. If you appreciate that historical aspect, then you should know that the **Historical Society of Pottawattamie County** is a group of people with a common goal as stated in their Mission: "to preserve the past for current and future generations." The Historical Society has been instrumental in saving many of the historical sites in our county, and they are looking for new members who also seek to preserve our community's history. If you would like more information or might be interested in becoming a member, visit: www.thehistoricalsociety.org

Preserve Council Bluffs has a similar mission: "to preserve and restore historic sites in the city of Council Bluffs." This non-profit organization is active in preserving the history and culture in our community, and are responsible for saving the amazing Bregant House. They also organize and host amazing fund-raising dinners in historic homes, trolley tours, and historic homes/sites walking tours. To learn more about the great things that Preserve C.B. is involved in, or to become a member visit their website at: www.presvecouncilbluffs.org



KEEP INFORMED!!

Share news, updates, inquiries, refer business people or services, get the latest GNA news and much more! It's FREE and it's only open to folks within the GNA boundaries!!

Register TODAY for GNA's "Nextdoor" social website: www.gibraltar.nextdoor.com.

Visit Gibraltar online: www.GibraltarNA.org

Newsletter copies furnished courtesy of Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs. **THANK YOU!**



Gibraltar Neighborhood Association: Membership Registration Form

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Become a Gibraltar Neighborhood Association Member!! Yearly dues are \$25 *per household*. In order to be eligible to vote for board candidates and other issues, you must be a paid association member. Make checks payable to and mail payment to:

Gibraltar Neighborhood Association ■ P.O. Box 1971 ■ Council Bluffs, IA 51502-1971

HELP MAKE GIBRALTAR A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE!

PLEASE take a few moments to fill out this survey! Then fold in thirds, tape it shut, apply postage and mail.

1. A range of your head(s) of household:

- 18-24 years
- 25-34 years
- 35-44 years
- 45-54 years
- 55-64 years
- 65-74 years
- 75 or older

2. How many children (under age 18) are in your household:

- 5 or more
- 3 to 4
- 1 to 2
- None

3. How many neighbors do you know?

- All of them
- Most of them
- About half of them
- A Few of them
- None of them

4. How strong is the "sense of community" in the Gibraltar neighborhood?

- Very strong
- Moderately strong
- Not at all strong

5. How often do you attend Gibraltar meetings and/or events and activities?

- I attend most or all
- I attend occasionally
- I never attend

6. If you do not attend any events or meetings, why not?

7. What types of events would you attend or participate in if offered by Gibraltar?

8. What do you like most about the Gibraltar neighborhood?

9. What do you like least?

10. What changes would most improve the Gibraltar neighborhood?

11. Overall, what is your satisfaction level with living in this neighborhood?

- Extremely satisfied
- Moderately satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Moderately dissatisfied
- Extremely dissatisfied

Fold, then seal closed with tape

Place
Stamp
Here

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Council Bluffs, IA 51502-1971
